REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 6-11 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of Applicants right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in this or a subsequent application. Support for new claims 6-11 can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. See, for example page 2, line 3 from the bottom of the page to page 3, line 8; and page 6, lines 15-21. No new matter has been introduced by the newly presented claims.

Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Hirano (U.S. Patent 5,820,878).

Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Hirano (U.S. Patent 5,820,878).

New claim 6 provides an adhesive preparation for percutaneous absorption **consisting essentially of**:

a base for the adhesive preparation which contains a styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer;

an amount of norethisterone dissolved in the base preparation without crystallization in the absence of hexylene glycol;

estradiol in an amount not more than 2 % by weight based on the whole base;

a softener selected from liquid paraffin, polybutene, castor oil, cottonseed oil, palm oil, coconut oil, and processed oil; and

an adhesive resin selected from alicyclic saturated hydrocarbon resins, rosin ester, hydrogen alicyclic hydrocarbon, terpene-based hydrogenated resin, and hydrogenated rosin ester.

New claim 8 provides an adhesive preparation for percutaneous absorption **consisting essentially of**:

a base for the adhesive preparation which contains a styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer;

an amount of norethisterone dissolved in the base preparation without crystallization in the absence of hexylene glycol;

estradiol in an amount not more than 2 % by weight based on the whole base;

a softener selected from liquid paraffin, polybutene, castor oil, cottonseed oil, palm oil, coconut oil, and processed oil;

an adhesive resin selected from alicyclic saturated hydrocarbon resins, rosin ester, hydrogen alicyclic hydrocarbon, terpene-based hydrogenated resin, and hydrogenated rosin ester; and

a polyisobutylene solubilizing agent.

Thus, the use of "consisting essentially of" language in new claims 6 and 8 precludes adhesive preparations for percutaneous absorption which contain crotamiton.

In contrast, Hirano teaches that "the base containing as the essential components the (A-B)n-A type elastomer, **the crotamiton**, and the softening agent" in the recited percutaneously absorbable patch provides improved biological utility and reduced skin irritation. See, column 1, lines 59-66, column 2, lines 61-65, and the working examples.

Thus, the instant claims, which provide adhesive formulations consisting essentially of the ingredients presented in the claims 6 and 8, are patentable over the percutaneously absorbable patches of Hirano which include crotamiton as an essential ingredient.

Thus, claims 6-11 are patentable over the Hirano reference and withdrawal of the §102 rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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John B. Alexander (Reg. No. 48,399)
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P. O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
Tel: (617) 439-4444
Fax: (617) 439-4170 / 7748